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Let us appreciate this work of Hopkins and Whiting as an interesting contribution to the study of nitrification, but let us not draw too far-reaching and improper conclusions from it which are only partially applicable to field conditions.

In fact Hopkins and Whiting say in this Bulletin that:

"The addition of limestone with the insoluble phosphates prevents the detection of soluble phosphates."

They also say that:

"The nitrous acid produced may act upon compounds of iron, aluminum, potassium, sodium or magnesium which occur in soils, or it may act upon tricalcium phosphate, calcium silicate or calcium carbonate, if present."

In their hope of confining the solvent action of the nitrous acid as fully as possible to the raw phosphate rock, Hopkins has recommended that the phosphate be turned under in intimate contact with organic matter, yet when one realizes the even closer contact of the many soil particles with the organic matter at the same time, it will be obviously impossible for the nitrous acid to attack wholly or even chiefly the raw rock phosphate. This idea is fully supported by Thorne's practical field tests in Ohio, by the work of Mooers and others in Tennessee, and by the collective evidence of practically all of the agricultural chemists in the United States and Europe.

H. J. WHEELER

I gladly leave the judgment of the ethical and scientific questions involved to the impartial court of my colleagues at home and abroad.

H. J. WHEELER

92 STATE STREET,
BOSTON, MASS.

1916 OR 1816?

THE following announcement has appeared in the *Washington Times*, Wednesday, December 20, 1916:

PHRENOLOGIST TO SPEAK

Professor G. W. Savory, a graduate of the Fowler School of Phrenology of New York, will address the Enosinian Literary Society of George Washington University on the evening of January 15. His subject will be "Brains—How to Know and Handle Them." The lecture will be given in the assembly hall of the Arts and Sciences Department building, 2023 G street northwest.

Comments would seem superfluous.

A. HRDLIČKA

QUOTATIONS

SCIENCE IN GERMANY FROM AN ENGLISH VIEWPOINT

GERMANY has been held up to us so long as the model in all matters of state organization that most English students of institutions will read with surprise the letter published in another column, which has been addressed by the Committee of the Institution of German Engineers to Herr von Bethmann Hollweg in favor of the opening of the German civil service to men of scientific training. To-day the higher branches of the German civil service are reserved for lawyers, and are not open to graduates of the technical high schools. The evil of this system has long been felt in Germany. Ten years ago the German government admitted that the higher branches of their civil service were not manned in accordance with the requirements of the time. The training of those officials, even since the reforms of 1906, consist of a secondary-school course with a strong bias towards the humanities, followed by a short university course almost exclusively composed of legal subjects. The ordinary law course is the higher civil service course. Whatever a student's inclination or tendency may be, the legal training is a condition precedent to a civil service career. "Civil servants," the chancellor is told with pathetic force, "are called upon to deal with problems the expert solution of which calls for just the type of mental equipment that is provided by the technical high schools. . . . The forcible exclusion of the intellect that is available amongst these circles from participation in the higher civil service constitutes a waste of the intellectual powers of our nation."

The loss of the German nation under such an absurd system is not our concern; the point that we are interested in is that this nation, which claims to lead the world in administrative efficiency is in this instance, at least as dissatisfied with its achievements in the most important part of the organization of a nation as even England herself. Of course all the world knows now that Germany has long eked out her various weaknesses in administration by trumpeting that have brought down with a run the Jericho walls of foreign